

his expertise, his guidance, his friendship will certainly be missed by all. My best wishes to MARK HATFIELD and his lovely wife Antoinette. And my thanks on behalf of all of our colleagues. We thank him, and both of them, for their service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR SAM NUNN

Mr. NICKLES. Also, Mr. President, I would like to acknowledge another retiring colleague, the Senator from Georgia, Senator SAM NUNN. SAM NUNN was elected to the Senate 24 years ago. He is an outstanding Senator.

Many people know Senator NUNN as a leader of the Armed Services Committee. He has served as chairman and has served as ranking member. He has served in that capacity with distinction. He is a well-known expert in foreign policy and national defense matters.

What some people might not know about Senator NUNN is he also has a great deal of talent in other areas. He is one of the best golfers I have known, a very competitive individual.

But maybe my fondest memory of Senator NUNN will be when he made the speech at the national prayer breakfast just last year. I remember when he was talking about his accomplishments, he said, well, a lot of people would ask him about his accomplishments for his years of service, what bills did he pass, what legislative accomplishment was his real high water mark? He said the fact that he maintained a very strong relationship with his wife Colleen and maintained that relationship with his wife and his family. I thought that was a very inspirational comment.

I have really grown to know and respect Senator NUNN for his work, not only on Armed Services, but also for his work on the permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, for his work that he has done in small business. He has been a colleague that, again, people on both sides of the aisle in the U.S. Senate have really grown to know and respect. Certainly we will miss Senator NUNN. We thank him for his many years of service, 24 years of outstanding service, in the U.S. Senate.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BILL COHEN

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, also, I would like to comment on another retiring colleague from the State of Maine, Senator BILL COHEN. BILL COHEN served 6 years in the U.S. House of Representatives during a very turbulent time, a time many people called "Watergate." He served, I believe, on the Judiciary Committee. I remember being an interested observer in Oklahoma and watching the House committee and Senator COHEN's involvement. That was back in 1973 and 1974. Senator COHEN was elected to the House in 1972.

In 1978, he was elected to the U.S. Senate. So he has served 18 years in the

Senate. In addition to being an outstanding Senator on Armed Services and also on the Intelligence Committee, he is an author, he is a poet, he is a person who is respected on both sides of the aisle. He is a person who all in the Senate, Democrat and Republican, have certainly come to enjoy, to respect. He will certainly be missed in the Senate. We wish Senator BILL COHEN all the best and thank him for his years of service to our country, both in the House and in the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ALAN SIMPSON

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, also, I would like to make a couple comments about our colleague, Senator SIMPSON from Wyoming, Senator SIMPSON, from Cody, WY, and his lovely wife Ann. What a wonderful example of a loving couple, who have been a shining example for so many people. He is an outstanding representative for the State of Wyoming. He represents the State of Wyoming, is independent, kind of hard-nosed, funny, humorous, maybe the most humorous Senator that we have.

He is a colleague whom I have had the pleasure over the last few years to serve with on the Finance Committee. He is a courageous Senator, a Senator who is willing to take on issues that a lot of people would rather stay away from. He talks about problems in spending and Social Security. Not too many people want to talk about that. He talks about the problems and the need to try to rein in growing and exploding entitlement programs, a Senator who is willing to lead and stand up, a Senator who served Bob Dole and, frankly, the entire Senate so well, served as assistant majority leader for 10 years, a Senator who is willing to take on tough issues, like immigration. I am pleased that in the next day or two we will be passing immigration reform. It is largely because of the leadership of ALAN SIMPSON.

So he has a lasting legislative legacy in passing responsible legislation, like immigration reform, that most of us realize is very complicated, not a fun-type issue, yet Senator SIMPSON has shown the courage and the willingness, tenacity, and perseverance to make sure that we did the right thing.

So I compliment Senator SIMPSON for his 18 years of service in the U.S. Senate. He has been an outstanding Senator. We certainly wish Senator ALAN SIMPSON and his wife Ann all the best.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR NANCY KASSEBAUM

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, also, I would like to make a couple comments about my friend and neighbor, Senator NANCY KASSEBAUM from Kansas. Senator KASSEBAUM will be leaving the Senate after 18 years of outstanding service. Senator KASSEBAUM is a Senator who is well respected by Democrats and Republicans and is the chair-

man of the Labor and Human Resources Committee—I might say, a very productive chairman.

She has passed a lot of legislation through her leadership. She has been able to work in a bipartisan fashion to get things done. She is a commonsense fiscal conservative who is willing to take on some of the tough issues, who is independent, who is willing to get things done for the good of our country, and certainly the good of her State.

Senator KASSEBAUM is certainly, in my opinion, one of the most decent Senators who has ever served in this body. She will certainly be missed. I thank her for her dedication to Kansas, and also to our country as well.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, likewise, I would like to say thank you to Senator HOWELL HEFLIN, commonly known as "the judge." He has served 18 years in the Senate. He was a former chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, a Senator with a southern drawl, a Senator who served on the Agriculture Committee and the Judiciary Committee, a Senator who has always done his homework.

He knows the Constitution probably as well as anyone serving in this body. He is a Senator who served in World War II as a marine. He is a Senator who is well liked by, I think, all, who has made a significant sacrifice, in my opinion, by serving in this body, and certainly that has been to the benefit of the people of Alabama and the benefit of our entire country.

So I wish Senator HEFLIN all the best and his lovely wife Mike. We have enjoyed their service. We wish them all the best as they return to the State of Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HANK BROWN

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, likewise, I would like to acknowledge my friend and colleague, HANK BROWN, who will be leaving the Senate after one term. I truly say—all the other colleagues I have alluded to have served 18 years or more in the Senate—I hate to see HANK BROWN leave because he is leaving after 6 years in the Senate.

He has made such a valuable contribution to this body. I have had the pleasure of serving with HANK BROWN on the Budget Committee. He has just been a real asset, not only to the budgeteers, but he is a person who does his homework, he is a person who digs into the numbers, a person who is innovative, very intelligent—very bright—who finds a better way to do something, who is always working on trying to do something good for our country, to save some money, a fiscal conservative who is effective, who not only makes speeches—and in my opinion one of the best speakers we have in this

body—but one of the most effective persons because he is the type of person that has the intelligence and the wherewithal to put together a budget package, and the type of person who can come up with amendments that can be enacted into law.

He served in the House of Representatives for 10 years. Certainly, he also had private sector business experience, he served in Vietnam, a person that is very well respected, a Senator, frankly, that I hate to see leave the Senate after only one 6-year term in the Senate.

He will certainly be missed by this Senator and I think all Senators. I wish Senator Hank BROWN and his wife, Nan, all the best, as they return to the private sector.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Oklahoma for his remarks about my pending retirement. I want to commend him because I have done that line of work. I served for 10 years as the assistant leader, and the occupant of the chair served for 8 years as assistant leader, so the three of us in this Chamber have added quite a dimension to the efforts of the Senate. I commend the Senator. I think he is doing a fine job. I am very proud to have seen you do the job. You are going to succeed very well in the future and be of great assistance to our very fine leader, TRENT LOTT, who, I think, too, is truly a leader. I thank the Senator for that.

Let me indulge my absent colleagues for a few minutes as I speak of winding down 31 years of legislating. I did this for 13 years in the Wyoming house of representatives, serving in many capacities there—assistant leader and majority leader, and I enjoyed that very much. One of the great honors of my legislative life was to serve here as assistant majority leader and assistant minority leader. I have enjoyed that leadership role. I commend those who throw themselves into the fray to do that. It is a contact sport.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, let me just relate a bit about the immigration legislation which is now on its way to us in the continuing resolution. After negotiations until about 2 a.m. two nights ago and then until this morning until 4:30 a.m., if I look bright and alert it is deceptive in every sense. One of my staff, John Knepper, a fine young man, spent all night here and all morning. We finally turned him back to his home in a zombie-like condition and thank him so much for his splendid work last night and this morning.

In the course of dealing with this huge bill, a very significant bill with regard to illegal immigration, we all were confronted with the reality that the purpose of leaders is to lead. Our leaders wanted to complete this session and do it this weekend. To do that, there were accommodations of varying

degrees, obviously. Some disappointments, some victories, some defeats. We all know that feeling as we wind down a legislative year. It is the time when much can happen, and if one is not observing carefully, things are slid into a bill and things are slid out of a bill. We all, then, go home and say, "Wait, what happened here?" Or, "Well, we got that in." That is the way legislating is, too.

I thought that the leadership, in pressing forward to meet the schedule that they set for themselves and the bipartisan way in which it was done, our majority leader, TRENT LOTT and minority leader, TOM DASCHLE, NEWT GINGRICH, the Speaker of the House, our assistant leader here, DON NICKLES, Senator FORD, all worked together to make it work. I saw that over the course of days.

The other evening when we went until 2 a.m. there was a group of four of us, including Congressman LAMAR SMITH. I must pay him tribute: A remarkable man, steady, and thoughtful. I have never seen him get too impatient, never seen him really rise up like your loyal correspondent does from time to time. He was steady on the course throughout.

The rest of that quartet were Senator KENNEDY and Congressman HOWARD BERMAN and myself. We worked up some changes to what is called title V. There are no changes in the conference report on immigration, on illegal immigration, except in that one section. Everything else is exactly the same, and it is sweeping. It is about new Border Patrol agents, 5,000. It is about new penalties for those who use or alter or make fraudulent documents. It extends the visa waiver pilot program, and it provides 900 new investigators over 3 years to enforce alien smuggling and employer sanctions. Alien smuggling can subject one to a life in prison. There are heavy penalties to those who misuse and abuse documents, and 300 INS investigators will be hired here to check on those who overstay their visas. Remember that half of the people who come to the United States illegally originally were here legally. In other words, half of the illegal population in the United States came here legally, and then, of course, visa overstayers, visa fraud, student overstayers—we have the ability now to begin to correct that.

There is a newly rewritten and streamlined removal process, combining exclusion and deportation into a single legal process. We also got rid of layers of people who love to bring class actions and disrupt the normal course of the INS's work. We make the sponsors' affidavit of support, finally, a legally enforceable document which should provide some relief to the U.S. taxpayer.

There is a minimum INS presence in every State. There is a system of expedited removal which should curb the abuse of our asylum system while still providing a hearing for an immigration

judge to those who make an asylum claim.

I want to thank Senator LEAHY for his work. I did not thank him at the time the amendment passed properly, but, nevertheless, a good deal of his material is in here. He felt strongly about that and he presented it well and won the case here. We adjusted that measure somewhat but it is still a good measure—not exactly what he would have wanted and not exactly what I would have wanted, and therefore, justifiably good.

There is a streamlined system for deporting aliens convicted of crimes. There is a requirement that all criminal aliens be detained until they are deported. Domestic violence and stalking are made deportable offenses. There is a provision to eliminate what is called "parachute kids," foreign students who come in and then attend public schools at taxpayer expense. I commend Senator FEINSTEIN for her work on that one. There is a pilot program for verification of eligibility to work, and there will be much more of that in the future because no matter how vigorous you want to be on illegal immigration and all the abuses of the system, nothing will work until we have a more counterfeit-resistant type of verification system—whatever that may be, whether it would eventually be a Social Security card, a slide-through card like you use with a VISA when you make a purchase, perhaps some type of driver's license photograph, retina examination like they have done in California. But at some point in time you are going to have to have a more secure identifier. It is going to have to be used only twice in a person's life. It is used at the time of new-hire employment, at the time of work, and at the time of drawing any benefits from any public assistance program. That is when it would be used. Of course, it would have to be presented by not just people who "look foreign", but by, as I have said a thousand times, by bald Anglos like me, too. That is what will come.

It is interesting to me that, still, you hear the cry of the editorial writers talking about the "slippery slope" and ID cards, national ID cards, or tattoos, or Nazi Germany. I heard all that in 18 years. But I haven't seen anybody write anything yet about the fact that when you go to get on an airplane, somebody at the curb, who is not connected with any agency, except the airline, is asking you for a picture ID I am waiting for the first editorial on that. I am sure it will be a magnificent thing, about the slippery slope.

What it is about is safety, and what it is about here in immigration is the abuse of the system. The sooner we get on with it and forget the blather about a national ID—which nobody ever proposed and never has been part of any bill I have been involved with—get on with it, unless, of course, somebody can tell me what we should do with the gentlemen at the curb who asks you for a picture ID.